

# CANADA Daily News and Updates March 4th 2025

## Ocean Updates

- After NOAA Layoffs, Experts Warn of Impacts on Shipping

## Rail and Truck Updates

- Canadian National Finalizes Acquisition of Iowa Northern

## Ocean Updates

### After NOAA Layoffs, Experts Warn of Impacts on Shipping

The U.S. Commerce Department has laid off as many as 880 employees from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency that provides weather forecasting, prepares nautical charts and administers federal fishery quotas. The cuts were primarily among probationary employees – either new hires or people who had been recently promoted to a new role – and the exact number of layoffs was not disclosed. The announcement drew protests from the scientific community, along with warnings about what cuts at NOAA will mean for maritime interests.

"NOAA's data and science are used routinely by weather forecasters, mariners, farmers, emergency responders, businesses and everyday people across the country," said Dr. Juan Declet-Barreto, a senior member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

More cuts are expected.

"Breaking up, defunding or reducing NOAA's highly integrated workforce will severely impact our nation's economy," five former NOAA administrators said Friday in an open letter. "It will also make it more difficult to receive weather forecasts, be assured of the safety of seafood, and ensure the timely delivery of purchases from overseas, which are delivered primarily through our nation's ports."

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

## Rail and Truck Updates

### Canadian National Finalizes Acquisition of Iowa Northern

Canadian National Railway and Iowa Northern Railway have officially joined operations, CN said Monday.

“This additional investment in the United States underscores our dedication to delivering outstanding rail service while driving economic growth,” CN CEO Tracy Robinson said in [a press release](#). “CN customers and partners along this network will benefit from single-line service offering new options and access to new markets.”

Read more in an [article from FreightWaves](#).